

THE
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE
PENNSYLVANIA INSTITUTION
FOR THE
DEAF AND DUMB,
FOR 1844.

PHILADELPHIA:

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE CONTRIBUTORS.

E. G. Dorsey, Printer, Library Street.

1845.

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To the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and to the Contributors to the Pennsylvania Institution for the Deaf and Dumb.

It is with increased gratitude to Almighty God for past blessings, and increased reliance upon his gracious providence for the future, that your Board of Directors present their Annual Report.

Among the miracles by which the divine founder of our holy religion established the truth of his mission to save, were the gifts of hearing to the deaf, and speech to the dumb; and we cannot doubt his kind regard for an institution which imitates his benevolent example so nearly, as that which is supported by your bounty and entrusted to our care.

In our early reports it was necessary to demonstrate the importance and feasibility of instructing the deaf mute, and to explain the various details of the system. From this duty we are happily relieved. No one now doubts the value of this noble charity, and none, we trust, would withhold from it, the support which it needs. We have little that is novel, and nothing that is remarkable, to state, because the plan we have adopted from experience, proves itself to be good by working smoothly and quietly, and because the several instructors, with the other agents employed in carrying out its provisions, have been zealous, united, and faithful.

During the year 1844, there were admitted 18 mutes.

Left the Institution,	-	-	-	31
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Died,	-	-	-	1
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Remaining on the 31st of December, ult.

Males,	-	-	-	58
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Females,	-	-	-	49
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Total,	-	-	-	107
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Of the whole number,

69 are supported by Pennsylvania.

11 " New Jersey.

8 " Maryland.

3 " Delaware.

16 " their friends or the Institution.

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Total, 107

Those supported by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, are from the following counties:

Adams, - - -	1	Franklin, - - -	1
Allegheny, - - -	7	Huntingdon, - - -	1
Armstrong, - - -	1	Juniata, - - -	1
Beaver, - - -	2	Lancaster, - - -	4
Bedford, - - -	1	Mifflin, - - -	1
Berks, - - -	7	Montgomery, - - -	3
Bucks, - - -	3	Northampton, - - -	1
Centre, - - -	1	Northumberland, - - -	1
Chester, - - -	5	Philadelphia, - - -	13
Columbia, - - -	1	Tioga, - - -	1
Crawford, - - -	5	Union, - - -	1
Cumberland, - - -	1	Wayne, - - -	2
Delaware, - - -	1	York, - - -	2
Erie, - - -	1		—

Total, 69

Those supported by the State of New Jersey are from the following counties:

Burlington, - - -	2	Mercer, - - -	1
Cumberland, - - -	3	Salem, - - -	1
Gloucester, - - -	4		—
			11

Those supported by the State of Maryland are from the following counties:

Dorchester, - - -	1	Talbot, - - -	1
Harford, - - -	3	Washington, - - -	2
Prince George's, - - -	1		—

8

Those supported by the State of Delaware are from the following counties:

Kent,	-	-	-	1	Sussex,	-	-	-	1
New Castle,	-	-	-	1					—
									3

Those supported by their friends or by the Institution are, from

Virginia,	-	-	-	2	Maryland,	-	-	-	1
New Jersey,	-	-	-	1	Cuba,	-	-	-	1
District of Columbia,				1	Pennsylvania,	-	-	-	10
									—
									16

Of those admitted into the Institution during the year 1844, 6 were born deaf.

1 became deaf by hydrocephalus, resulting from a fall on the head, at 3 years old.

1 became deaf by scarlet fever, at 3 years old.

1 “ “ “ 4 “

1 “ “ “ 5 “

1 “ “ “ 6 “

1 “ “ “ $5\frac{1}{2}$ “

1 “ whooping cough, at 1 “

1 “ measles and whooping cough, at 1 year old.

1 “ sickness, at 7 months of age.

1 “ erysipelas, at 15 months of age.

1 “ cold from exposure, at 3 months of age.

1 “ sickness, at 7 months of age.

The pupils are divided into seven classes, two of which are taught by deaf mutes, who have received their education in the Institution. The other classes are taught by liberally educated male teachers of several years experience.

The literary progress of the pupils during the year, has been satisfactory, realizing the expectation that increasing experience in this difficult and laborious department will produce more and more valuable results.

The moral condition of the inmates of the Institution is gratifying.

The health of the family, considering the number of per-

sons composing it, has been remarkably good. Three or four cases, however, of severe indisposition occurred, one of which terminated fatally.

We have to lament the death of one of the most amiable and interesting of our pupils, Miss Mary H. Buck, on the 29th of February last, by inflammation of the lungs. She was from Cumberland county, New Jersey, about 14 years of age, and had been under instruction nearly six years. She had made very respectable acquisitions in her studies, appeared to possess a firm faith in Christ, and entertained a hope that she had a personal interest in his salvation. Several days previous to her decease, she expressed herself as having no fear of death, and as feeling an entire resignation to the will of her Heavenly Father.

A widowed mother, and several brothers and sisters, mourn her loss. The effect on her companions was impressive, and, as we trust, salutary and lasting.

The mechanical department continues to be useful, but from the short time daily devoted to it, from the youth of the lads, and from the depression of trade, it has not, the past year, been productive.

Nearly all the clothing of the pupils is made up by the girls, and while acquiring skill with the needle, they are at the same time forming habits of industry in various domestic avocations.

There are three deaf mutes, former pupils of the Institution, employed in different capacities, on wages.

A material change has been made in the medical department. Until within a short time, we depended wholly upon the gratuitous services of medical gentlemen, who, with great benevolence, accepted the charge, and watched over the health of our pupils with ever ready fidelity. To those highly distinguished men our thanks and yours are eminently due. A desire that we might have the best advantages of professional skill, in aid of our purposes, suggested the appointment of a permanent attending physician, whose duty it should be to devote himself to our numerous family, and, especially, to

study and employ such physical methods of good to the deaf mute as the increasing light of science may discover. The Board, in consequence, appointed on the 6th of November last, Doctor John B. Biddle, attending physician, with a salary of two hundred and fifty dollars per annum; Doctors Wood, Pancoast and Mütter consenting, on their re-election, to give him their very valuable aid, when needed, as consulting physicians. The Directors hope that this arrangement may have your approbation, and that future results will confirm its wisdom.

Since our last report the Board have been called to mourn the loss of two from among their most respected associates. Mr. Paul Beck, one of the early benefactors of the Institution, and whose name has for a long time stood first on the list of Directors, but whose advanced age had, for some years past, deprived us of his active co-operation; and Mr. James Taylor, who, from the time of his being called to the service, until the close of his philanthropic life, was a most punctual and conscientious participant in the labours of the Directors. It is with sincere sorrow that we make this record of our bereavement, yet not without the consolation of knowing, that He who has given to our beloved Institution so many warm friends, will continue to supply, with others not less devoted, the places of those whom, in His ever righteous will, he has taken away.

Respectfully asking the continued liberality of the Legislature, and of its private patrons, in aid of an institution, which is at once an ornament and a benefit to the Commonwealth, we submit our Report.

By order of the Board of Directors.

PHILIP F. MAYER, *President.*

Attested—JAMES J. BARCLAY, *Secretary.*

Philadelphia, January 1, 1845.

TERMS OF ADMISSION.

By a rule of the Institution, deaf and dumb children are not received under ten years of age.

The annual charge is one hundred and sixty dollars. For which sum every thing necessary is provided, including the usual clothing of the Institution, board, lodging, washing, tuition, stationary and medical attendance; or one hundred and thirty dollars per annum, in case the clothing is furnished by the parents or friends of the pupil.

No deduction is made for vacation.

It is very desirable that the deaf and dumb should be taught to form letters with a pen or pencil, and if possible to write the names of common objects, before they are sent to the Institution.

This can be done without much difficulty and will save much valuable time.

The most advantageous time for the admission of pupils is the first of October in each year, and punctuality in this particular is important, as new classes are formed at this period.

Pupils will, however, be received at other times of the year, if circumstances prevent their being placed in the Institution by the first of October.

Payments are expected to be made in advance every six months.

SUBSCRIPTIONS, DONATIONS, BEQUESTS.

Annual Subscription,	\$ 2 00
Life Subscription,	-	.	-	-	20 00

Received by the Treasurer.

Donations to the Library, of Books, Maps, Pictures, &c., and to the Cabinet, of Apparatus, Specimens, Curiosities of Nature and Art, will be received at the Institution.

Form of a Devise or Bequest.

I give, devise and bequeath to "The Pennsylvania Institution for the Deaf and Dumb," &c.

STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

Applicants for the bounty of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, must be between the ages of ten and twenty years; and before they can be admitted, satisfactory evidence must be furnished, from respectable persons of their neighbourhood, of the pecuniary inability of the parents, and of the good natural intellect of the child; and its freedom from any constitutional malady that might incapacitate it for instruction.

Answers to the following questions are to be made in writing; to which must be subjoined the attestation of some respectable physician and clergyman or school-master, or of any other two respectable individuals personally acquainted with the applicant.

The parents, guardians or friends of the child, must engage to remove it from the Institution at the end of six years, or sooner should it be deemed necessary by the Directors of the Institution.

Applications may be addressed, (post paid,) "*To the Principal of The Pennsylvania Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, Philadelphia.*"

QUESTIONS.

1. What is the name of the child?—(Mention the whole of its name.)

What is its age?—(Mention the year, month, day and place of birth.)

3. What are the names of its parents, and where do they reside?—(Mention county, township, and nearest Post-office.)

4. Is it totally Deaf and Dumb? Does it evince any sensation from loud noises? Does it distinguish the sounds of the voice when articulated with ordinary distinctness? Can it utter any intelligible words? or does it in any way possess the power of speech?

5. Was it born Deaf, or did it lose its hearing through accident or disease? If so, how, and at what age did it lose its hearing?

6. Is it certainly not idiotic? Does it discover a good natural intellect by making signs intelligible to those with whom it has constant intercourse? and do they evince memory, judgment, &c.?

7. What has been the general moral conduct and disposition of the Child?

8. What is the state of its health in general?

9. Is it free from fits, from scrofulous ulcerations, and from every symptom of acute, chronic, or cutaneous disease?

10. Has it had the small-pox or the cow-pox, and the measles, and whooping-cough?

11. Has it received any education, or is it capable of forming and joining letters with a pen, legibly and correctly?

12. Has it learnt to perform any manual labour, or ever been usefully employed? If so, in what?

13. Does it live with its parents? If not, with whom, and where? State also how maintained?

14. What are the pecuniary circumstances of the parents, relatives, or friends? and how much could they engage to pay annually towards its maintenance and education?

15. What is the occupation of the parents? Where do they reside? What is the number of their children? Are any more of them Deaf and Dumb? Are any of their connections Deaf and Dumb?

We, the undersigned, do hereby certify, from actual personal knowledge of the above child, and the circumstances of its relatives or friends, that the answers to the foregoing questions are true.

WITNESS our hands, this day of 18

The subscribing parties are requested to add their abodes and occupations.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY.

Applications for the bounty of the State of New Jersey, must be made to the Governor, "accompanied by a certificate of any two respectable individuals, attested before a magistrate, to the age, circumstances and capacity of the Deaf mute, in whose behalf the application is made." The term allowed is five years.

STATE OF DELAWARE.

Applications for the bounty of the State of Delaware, must be made to the Associate Judges of the state. The term allowed is five years.

STATE OF MARYLAND.

Applications for the bounty of the State of Maryland, must be made to the Levy Courts, or Commissioners of the several counties, or to the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore. The term allowed, five years.

A P P E A L .

The Directors of the Pennsylvania Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, beg leave to call the attention of their fellow-citizens to the condition of the Institution. More than twenty-five years have elapsed since this noble charity was founded, and many of its early friends have ceased from their labours. A new generation has succeeded, impressed, no doubt, with the same generous feelings as that which has passed away, and equally ready to promote the cause of humanity. The Commonwealth has been constrained to limit her bounty, at a time when the objects of it had increased, and it has, therefore, become necessary to appeal to individuals, in order that *all* the indigent deaf mutes of a suitable age may obtain the countless blessings of education. No portion of the community, it is believed, has stronger claims on our sympathy and protection. Cut off in so great a degree from intercourse with the rest of his fellow-creatures, the deaf mute must rely mainly on his own resources, and these can be enlarged by education only, and by no other human means can he be made acquainted with his high and everlasting destiny. A single instance may be given of the inestimable advantage of such an asylum. It is the case of a former pupil who died in the service of the Board. "In all his moral habits he was, as far as known, strictly correct. His attendance on the religious services of the Institution was constant and always respectful. His evenings were generally spent in reading, and for several years his Bible was his daily study. He has several times been accidentally disturbed while engaged in private devotion, in retired places, and it is believed that this practice was habitual with him. For a long

time it was thought that his case was one in which the Institution had failed entirely in the results of its labours, and that its efforts had been expended in vain; but it has become evident, that its patient, persevering, forbearing benevolence, (even in this extreme case of physical and mental depression,) had triumphed nobly. It has smoothed the pathway of life, and given instruction, useful occupation, and a home to one on whom the hand of affliction had pressed heavily for years. Above all, it had taught an immortal spirit to commune with its Maker, and to seek for help and consolation from on high; and when clouds and darkness were around, it had poured in the light and comfort of the Christian's hope, and cheered the weary spirit with anticipations of the Christian's joy." Hundreds have already partaken of the benefits of the Institution, and that its doors may be open to *all*, this appeal, fellow-citizens, is made to you. The Directors feel confident that the appeal will not be made in vain, but will be responded to with that liberality that has distinguished our city. That you yourselves may witness the blessings conferred, and the happiness diffused, you are cordially invited to visit the asylum.

The payment of twenty dollars constitutes a member for life. The annual contribution is two dollars. Subscriptions and donations will be received by any member of the Board.

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